

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05393 231542Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 NSC-05
/036 W

-----018567 232110Z /64

R 231455Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4543

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SY, JO, US

SUBJ: SYRIAN-JORDANIAN U.S. FLIGHTS

REFS: (A) AMMAN 4958, (B) DAMASCUS 5374, (C) DAMASCUS 5382
(D) DAMASCUS 4469

1. INFO OBTAINED INDEPENDENTLY HERE FROM PANAM INDICATES THAT ALIA GHANDOUR STATISTICS ON LOAD FACTORS FOR ALIA FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. PANAM IN CONFIDENCE HAS TOLD US THAT IN APRIL THEY INTEND TO INSTITUTE BIWEEKLY 707 OPERATION FROM NEW YORK TO DAMASCUS AND BACK, AS DESCRIBED REF (B). INTENTION TO BEGIN THIS NEW OPERATION IN APRIL AT TIME SYRIAN AIR HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL INAUGURATE U.S. SERVICES MAY NOT BE COINCIDENTIAL.

2. SYRIAN AIR IS STILL CHICKEN, AND MUCH OF THIS RELUCTANCE COMES FROM FACT THAT SYRIAN AIR MANAGING DIRECTOR HAS BEEN TOLD THAT HE RESPONSIBLE THAT AIRLINES NOT RUN A LOSS. ACCORDING SYRIAN AIRLINE CHIEF PILOT THERE ARE NO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN FLYING TO NEW YORK. 747'S
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ARE UNDERUTILIZED AND AIR CREWS ARE ADEQUATE. HOWEVER, MORE IMPORTANT REASON THAT SYRIAN AIRLINE IS RELUCTANT TO GO ALONG WITH ALIA TO NEW YORK IS FACT THAT ALIA GHANDOUR PERSONALLY SCARES THEM. IF GHANDOUR VISIT TO U.S. DESCRIBED PARA 4 AMMAN REFTL, TAKES PLACE WITHOUT HE BEING CAREFUL TO KEEP SYRIANS FULLY INFORMED ON WHAT HE IS UP TO. HE MAY VERY WELL SCARE THEN OFF AGAIN.

3. AGAIN REQUEST URGENT RESPONSE TO PARA 1 REF (C)
IF WE ARE TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT WITH SYRIA IN FUTURE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770835/aaaabcrw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: EAIR, SY, JO, US, PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS, ALIA AIRLINES
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